

Are certain patient characteristics linked with long-term health effects of COVID-19?

December 7 2022



Credit: Pixabay/CC0 Public Domain

Many studies have described a variety of long-term effects of COVID-19, with symptoms including fatigue and malaise, breathing difficulties, and cognitive problems, often referred to as post COVID-19 condition or long COVID. A recent analysis in the *Journal of Internal Medicine* has identified several characteristics associated with a higher likelihood of receiving a post COVID-19 condition diagnosis.

In the study of 204,805 [individuals](#) who tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 in Stockholm, Sweden from March 2020 through July 2021, the proportion receiving a post COVID-19 condition diagnosis was 1% among individuals not hospitalized for their COVID-19 infection, 6% among hospitalized, and 32% among individuals treated in intensive care units (ICUs). The most common new-onset symptoms among individuals with a post COVID-19 condition diagnosis were fatigue (29%) among non-hospitalized individuals, and breathing difficulties among both hospitalized (25%) and ICU-treated patients (41%).

Female sex, previous mental health disorders, and asthma were associated with post COVID-19 condition among non-hospitalized and hospitalized individuals.

Among individuals with post COVID-19 condition, use of outpatient care was substantially elevated up to one year after the acute infection.

"Our understanding of health effects beyond the acute SARS-CoV-2 infection is continuously improving. In this study, we observed a marked difference in the occurrence of post COVID-19 condition [diagnosis](#) across different severities of the [acute infection](#)," said corresponding author Pontus Hedberg, MD and postdoctoral researcher at Karolinska Institutet. "Furthermore, the elevated outpatient primary and specialist care use indicates poor recovery for individuals suffering from post COVID-19 condition, highlighting the urgent need to better understand this condition and its potential resolution over time."

More information: Post COVID-19 condition diagnosis: A population-based cohort study of occurrence, associated factors, and healthcare use by severity of acute infection, *Journal of Internal Medicine* (2022). [DOI: 10.1111/joim.13584](https://doi.org/10.1111/joim.13584)

Provided by Wiley

Citation: Are certain patient characteristics linked with long-term health effects of COVID-19? (2022, December 7) retrieved 28 April 2023 from

<https://medicalxpress.com/news/2022-12-patient-characteristics-linked-long-term-health.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.